

Lakes Programs



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September 15, 2005

Overview

- My background
- Reason for this presentation
- Ecology's lake-related programs
- Some county lake programs
- Where to start to develop a lakes program

Ecology's Role in Lakes

➤ Lake Monitoring

- Program existed from 1989-1999; no more funding
- During that 10 year period, data was collected by more than 250 volunteers on 180 lakes statewide
- Great database of lake monitoring information, and a list of volunteers from all over the state

Ecology's Role in Lakes

- Freshwater Aquatic Weed Program
 - Program established in 1991 by our state legislature
 - A three-pronged approach: technical assistance, education, and financial assistance
 - Primarily focused on non-native, invasive plants
 - Funding for plan development, implementation (i.e. plant control)

Aquatic Weeds Program cont.

- Aquatic Plant Surveying
 - Data collected since 1991
 - Over 400 lakes have been surveyed
- Extensive website and database
- Specific focused research projects
(published in peer-reviewed journals)

Ecology's Role in Lakes

➤ Algae Program

- Funding acquired during the 2005 legislative session-\$1 increase per boater licensing fee (total increase-\$5)
- Program is being developed, and may encompass grants, technical assistance, education, and monitoring

Ecology's Role in Lakes

- Aquatic Pesticide Permit Program
 - Two permits available for in-lake plant and/or algae control
 - Noxious Weed Control NPDES General Permit
 - Coverage for control or eradication of non-native, invasive plants (submersed, floating-leaved, emergent)
 - Coverage issued to government entities only (new in 2005)
 - Technical assistance provided by Kathy Hamel, our state aquatic plant specialist

Ecology's Role in Lakes

- Aquatic Pesticide Permit Program cont.
 - Nuisance Weed and Algae Control NPDES General Permit
 - Control of native plants impacting beneficial uses (primarily aesthetics and recreation) and algae control
 - Coverage issued to the pesticide applicator and the lake “group” hiring them for their services (only under this permit, changing in 2006)

Overview of Washington Lake Programs

- The next slides highlight three county lake programs: King, Thurston, and Snohomish
- There are many other cities, counties, and county weed boards active in lake projects throughout the state

Overview of Washington Lake Programs

➤ King County

- Two separate entities: Major Lake Monitoring Program and Lake Stewardship Program
- Major Lake Monitoring Program
 - Water Quality Monitoring Stations throughout Lake Union, Lake Washington, and Lake Sammamish
 - Historical and up-to-date information on the overall health of these three major lakes

Overview of Washington Lake Programs

- King County Lake Stewardship Program
 - Volunteer lake monitoring program
 - Used to publish *The Lake Steward*, a quarterly newsletter (1994-2004)
 - Fact Sheets
 - Technical Assistance
 - Annual lake monitoring reports
 - Hydrilla eradication and alum treatments

Overview of Washington Lake Programs

➤ Thurston County

- Specifically works with two LMD's
- Long Lake and Lake Lawrence LMD's
- Demonstrations on manual methods, how to build a bottom barrier, etc.
- Lead entity if the LMD were to want to obtain permit coverage for chemical control
- Lake monitoring throughout the county

Overview of Washington Lake Programs

- Snohomish County
 - Water quality monitoring
 - Conducts lake restoration studies
 - Either is the lead for controlling invasive plants or provides government support to the project
 - Public education
 - Technical assistance
 - Volunteer monitoring program

Where to start?

- A good new program would build on resources already available from existing county and state programs, and use these to:
 - Develop a website with links to useful information
 - Start a volunteer monitoring program with local lakes
 - Coordinate efforts with Ecology to provide support to lakes applying for permits or grants
 - ?????
- This would necessitate at least 0.5 FTE

Any Questions??

